THE LOGGER'S BARK

Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

NON PROFIT ORG.

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TACOMA, WA

PERMIT NO. 1078

APRIL 2005 EVENTS

APR 6-Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Clubhouse - All members welcome

License Testing - 7 PM, Clubhouse

APR 13-Club Meeting - Library Administration Center, 7:30 PM

APR 22- BARK deadline - PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

APR 27-Club Meeting - Library Administration Center, 7:30 PM

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB

APRIL 2005 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 APRIL FOOLS DAY 	2 Open House 10 a.m.-2p.m. No-code tech class 9:00-5:00
3 10 METER NET 28.375 8 P.M. No-code tech class 9:00-5:00	4	5 147.28 NET 7:30 P.M.	6 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7	8	9 Open House 10 a.m.-2p.m.
10 10 METER NET 28.375 8 P.M.	11	12 147.28 NET 7:30 P.M. VE Testing 7:00 P.M. @ the clubhouse	13 RCT Meeting 7:30 p.m.	14	15 Hamfest Meeting	16 Open House 10 a.m.-2p.m.
17 10 METER NET 28.375 8 P.M.	18	19 147.28 NET 7:30 P.M.	20	21	22	23 Kitchen Open House 10 a.m.-2p.m.
24 10 METER NET 28.375 8 P.M.	25	26 147.28 NET 7:30 P.M.	27 RCT Meeting 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30 Open House 10 a.m.-2p.m. Mini Flea Market

THE radio club of tacoma W7DK THE LOGGER'S BARK

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

ARRL RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA W7DK

April 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT, MICK KK7QS

Inside this issue:

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I would like to start out this month with a big thanks to the powers that be, for getting us through the winter once more. We didn't get a very harsh winter this year, and I have had flowers in my yard since early March. Guess that's a sign that it is time to get those antennas in shape and all those new ideas started. Spring cleaning and projects are waiting. Speaking of spring cleaning, it is time for us to think about getting the yard at the clubhouse cleaned up a little so we can continue with the garage addition we have planned. With the kitchen being finished and all, Jill and Frank would like to have an open house special kitchen dedication, and I thought maybe we could have it on a Saturday and combine it with a cleanup party. How about this. Saturday April 23rd we will have spring cleanup of the yard in the morning, and have a nice pot luck in the after noon to celebrate our new kitchen. Sounds like a plan to me . Hope to see you at the club house April 23rd. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert Come and show support for your club. It will soon be time to break out all the field day items and check them for safe use. We will need to have a tower set up practice and check the operation and condition of the generators. These things usually happen in early June. June is a pretty busy month around the club. The first Sunday in June we have W7DK at The Beach. Father's Day takes a weekend and Field Day is the last weekend in June. Keep your ears open for other projects and event to happen. Listen to the club sponsored nets on Tuesdays on 147.28 at 7:30 PM and on Sundays tune in to our 10 meter net on 28.375 at 8:00 PM. This is a good opportunity to pass information or news about club activities and projects. It gives new hams a place to start with their new found hobby. My first ham contact was to net control on a the Tuesday 147.28 net. You should make a point to tune in. You might be surprised how much you could learn, or even contribute to your club. **Hamfest meeting scheduled:** There has been a hamfest meeting scheduled to take place at the clubhouse on Friday April 15th at 7:00PM. If you are interested in helping out with this years hamfest you are encouraged to attend. 73 de kk7qs / Mick

From my e-mail box

Good morning Mr. Pier, KK7QS, Last fall the Amber Alert Web Portal (AAWP) was placed into service with the cooperation of numerous state, county and city agencies and the news media. The AAWP is a quick and accurate way to disseminate information about children who have been abducted. How the portal works is a law enforcement agency places an entry on the website and the media and individual citizens who have signed up for the service are immediately notified of the entry. There is no cost to individuals who sign up for this service.

Members of the Amateur Radio Service are excellent candidates to receive information from the AAWP as they are not only mobile, but they have the two way communications equipment to share the information and to make reports if a suspected person/vehicle is observed. Hams are also more observant than the average citizen and are more inclined to want to help public safety agencies and their community.

The Washington State Patrol is in the process of putting together information about the Amber Alert Web Portal that can be used in newsletters, paper or electronic, to inform the citizens of the State of Washington about the AAWP and how to sign up for automatic notification. If you have any questions or would like more information feel free to send me an e-mail to monte.simpson@wsp.wa.gov or to k2mls@arrl.net 73, Monte Simpson, K2MLS Washington State Patrol Communications Manager Bremerton/District Eight

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA OFFICERS -- 2004

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Announcements

Hamfest Meeting-Friday April 15 7:00P.M. Anyone interested in helping out at the Hamfest is welcome to attend.

Kitchen Open House—
Saturday April 23 10 A.M.—2 P.M.

The weekly ARES 2 M net will be held on the 145.210 repeater (PL 141.3) on March 29th. We try and run the net on different frequencies/repeaters on the 5th Tuesday of the month in months that have one.
This is also a reminder that the special events that we provoke communication for are almost here. A preliminary list of the events we are supporting is:
April 9 MS Walk Point Defiance Park
April 16 Daffodil Parade in Orting 4 pm
June 4-5 Summer Special Olympics at Ft Lewis
June 11 Sound to Narrows 12k run
June 29-Jul 5 Tall Ships Tacoma 2005 We will not be supporting The March of Dimes - Walk America in Point Defiance Park on April 23 as previously announced. To sign up to work any of the events, contact David Brinkmann N7UNN at n7unn@earthlink.net.
Rich Heasty KK7VH

CLUB MEETINGS: 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Pierce County Library Administration Building, 3005 - 112th Street East, Tacoma, WA

W7DK/Radio Club of Tacoma

147.28 / .88 MHz (PL 103.5)

147.38 / .98 MHz (PL 103.5)

144.97 - Packet

440.625 / 445.625 (PL 103.5)

The R.C.T. Clubhouse is located at 1249 South Washington Street, Tacoma, Washington. Mailing address for all Club business: Post Office Box 11188, Tacoma WA 98411 253-759-2040

Regular Membership Fees for FULL Members, except students, Family Members and Senior Citizens is $30.00 per calendar year. 1st 2 Family Members of the same household will pay $15.00 per calendar year. Full time students, up to and including seniors in college, ½ the fee for Full Membership ($15.00). Membership fee for Senior Citizens (65 and over) is $25.00 per calendar year. Lifetime membership: 20-times the appropriate annual fee. E-mail all articles & advertising to thebark@comcast.net or mail to Dawn Pier, kc7vzm, 308 118th Ave. Ct. E., Edgewood, WA 98372. Subscription rate for Non-members $7.00 per year (12 issues). Commercial Advertising per issue: $60.00 full page, $30 per one-half page, $15.00 per quarter page, Business Cards $5.00. Advertising moneys help offset the costs of publication and mailing. Swap and Wanted Column articles are free to R.C.T. members. *The Logger's Bark* does not verify or guarantee statements in the Swap or Wanted columns. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in *The Logger's Bark* if credit line is included in the report.

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The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non profit organization as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Radio Club of Tacoma Meeting Minutes

Radio Club of Tacoma Board Meeting
February 2, 2005
Meeting opened at 1930 hrs by President Pier, KK7QS.
Minutes were not available.
Correspondence: Newsletters, World Radio, Card from ARRL, Phone Bill, and an ad.
Treasurer Report: Passed out at meeting.
Income $4944.57 Expenses $3636.88
Announcements: Jill, K7JIL, reported on the Kitchen Project. Nick, N7MO, reported on the 440 repeater. Pat, KD7TRC, reported that she will try to get with Roger, WA7ANJ, to update the bank accounts. Mick, KK7QS, reported on the property lines and updating the neighbors.
Old Business; Roddney, WV7O, asked about the water heater. Also discussed were the review of phone bills, usage, and answering machine versus voice mail, still pending. Shed addition to the garage, waiting weather and permits. Chairperson for Long Range Planning Committee, still open. Copy of revised standing rules for RCT, still being worked on. Establishment of an awards committee, one was put together for the 2004 awards, but we need a more permanent on. The WG7X HF operating event, cancelled due to lack of response. New club banner, Mike Compton, KB7ZDR, volunteered to take on the project. Rotation of hosts for Saturday open house, a volunteer sign up calendar will be put up. Putting the Bark on the web site instead of mailing, pending, notification will be sent to members that it is availble on the site. Repair to the damaged gate in driveway, will be done in near future.
New Business: Frank, AC7JY, mentioned the upcoming Hamfest in Oregon and the need to get our flyers to it. Pat, KD7TRC, plans to have a financial review in April.
Discussion on Officers who are unable to attend. Discussion on the budget and how it works.
Adjourned at 2031 hrs.

RCT Board meeting for Wednesday, March 2nd 2005.
Meeting opened at 1930 hours by President Pier, KK7QS
Minutes: Read and adopted.
Correspondence: None
Treasurers Report: Read and Accepted.
Announcements:
1.Jill, K7JIL reported on the ongoing kitchen repair/remodel. This project is in the final stages and will be ready in time for the classes scheduled for the weekend. On Budget and on time! Many Kudos to Frank and Jill on a great project.
2.The Mike and Key ham fest was discussed. President Pier was looking for volunteers to man the RCT table at this event. Rich, N7ANF decided to take on this task, but that means that either the RCT Clubhouse will be closed on March 12th, or a replacement for Rich needs to be found.
3.The first RCT ham fest meetings will start in April, Date to be determined later, although it looks as if later in the month would be best.
4."The Bark" is now available via E-mail to those members wishing it. A yes/no responder card will be included in the next issue of "The Bark", which will allow each member to select delivery via Postal mail or E-mail.
Old Business:
1. Roddney WV7O and Mike KB7ZDR have fixed the RCT parking lot gate, and it should be rock-solid now.
New Business:
1. Hal, W7EC requested that RCT issue a thank-you letter to the Black & Decker company thanking them for their donation of many unused screwdriver motors. These motors will be used in an ongoing club project. This project is designing and using mobile HF "screwdriver" antennas. The club secretary will write the letter on club stationery and dispatch it to the appropriate people.
2. Pat, KD7TRC asked about trailer licenses. RCT has three trailers, two carry generators used on field day and for communications events. The last trailer is used to carry extendible antenna supports. It is necessary to keep these three licenses current.
3. Pat also asked about clarification on the RCT policy of issuing free memberships to the NCTs that take classes at RCT and also pass the license exams at RCT. After much spirited debate, it was decided that the membership committee would issue a one year club membership to those who met the criteria.
4.Hal, W7EC asked about the status of the club's "super-slingshot". This device was donated by Hal for use by club members who wished to install an antenna. Apparently some parts are missing. Frank, AC7JY volunteered to look into this matter for Hal and report back to the board.
5.Steve, KD7UBE asked about a Yaesu Hand-held radio that had been won during one of the raffles held during the RCT ham fest last year. Apparently, the radio in question had been won by one ham who then either gave or loaned it to Armand KA5BBG. This radio is supposedly in poor operating condition, and Steve, acting on behalf of Armand, was asking if the RCT would be responsible for repairing this radio. During the discussion, we learned that the radio was not new, nor had it been represented and such during the RCT ham fest and ensuing raffle. Nevertheless, club President KK7QS determined that we would have our in-house technician Mike KB7ZDR have a look at this radio. It was also determined that the Yaesu company technicians had declined to repair this radio, citing warranty and other factors. The company technicians also implied that this particular radio had been there before, and repairs at that time were also unsuccessful.
6. Pat, KD7TRC asked for committee reports from all revenue generating activities for tax purposes. These reports need to be submitted to Pat no later than March 23, 2005.
Attendees:
1.Mick, KK7QS
2.Gary, WG7X
3. Pat, KD7TRC
4. Jill K7JIL
5. Frank AC7JY
6. Rich N7ANF
7. Bill AB7WJ
8. Randy, KD7TRA
9. Peter KD7YPJ
10. Hal W7EC
11. Steve KD7UBE
12. Al K7HW
Respectfully submitted
Gary McAdams WG7X

March 9th 2005
RTC general membership meeting
Minutes not available. Door prize was a soldering gun won by Bill KB7WYO . The raffle was for a HF power meter won by John AC7WW.

March 23,2005
RTC general membership meeting
Meeting opened at 1930 hrs by President Pier, KK7QS with the pledge of alligience
Annoncements:
Steve WB7LKI is still in the hospital
Lorna KB7YTJ silent key March 18
We have a new am for the club
DK@the Beack wil be held on June 5th
(continued on page 6)

(meeting minutes continued from page 5).
Mother's Day Breakfast May 15th
Armand KA5BBG discussed club issues.
Presentation: QRP by Rich KR7W
Radio Gear was displayed
Next Presentation-Contesting by Gary WG7X
Lynn K7OKS took a day off to help repair the floor in the new kitchen. The work on the Kitchen is now finished, expect a open-house party.
Door Prize: tool box won by Dennis KB7WFB
Raffle cash drawing $38.00 was won by Chuck AC7QN.
Meeting was closed at 21:30

If you know anyone in the club who could use a word of cheer, congratulations or condolences, please contact Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772 or e-mail hamtalker2@msn.com

Laughing on the Radio... HO HO, HI HI, HEE HEE?
By Rich KR7W

I am really big on preserving the traditions of amateur radio… you know, like QSL cards, using the nearly long lost art of CW communications, and even though I do not do it... but I enjoy and encourage the old timers who get on 3.840 MC and fire up their DX-100s or Viking Rangers and operate using AM.

I read somewhere that over a hundred years ago, railroad telegraph operators (you know – clack-clack from the sounder) ***laughed*** with each other in a Santa Claus style, sending HO HO in American Morse code.

One of the eleven letters that are different in **American Morse** (the old railroad code) from **International Morse** (the code used on ships, military, and ham radio CW) is the letter **O**. American Morse's O is two dits with a slight separation between them i.e. dit_dit, which is nearly like two Es in International Morse code.

More than 50 years ago, many radio operators – including many hams (the old guys I learned from when I was a kid)… still expressed their CW laughter in American Morse code as HO HO, which in International Morse sounds like HEE HEE. Laughing HEE HEE in International Morse is one of those amateur radio traditions that were instilled in me by my Elmers… and as a good ham operator I will continue to carry on that tradition (as well as many others).

So, how did HEE HEE become HI HI? Most likely… somewhere along the line, radio magazine writers, who were not familiar with the traditions and history of Morse operating, turned the rhythmical HEE HEE (in Morse) into the staccato HI HI in print and in voice communication on the air.

To me, HI HI in CW (call me a traditionalist) just don't sound right… and when I hear it in voice communication it just don't sound right, either. But, then again… can you imagine some ham saying HEE HEE into their microphone instead of HI HI? HEE HEE sounds just about like someone laughing… so why not just laugh into the microphone with laughter instead of being so darn cryptic with HI HI?

Two more things: First: For those hams who are interested in CW… take a listen on a FISTS calling frequency (3.558, 7.058, 14.058 MHz, for instance) and copy a slow or fast operator. I bet you my microphone that you will hear HEE HEE. Those FISTS members want to preserve a couple of amateur radio traditions… namely CW and laughing like a good ham radio operator.

The second thing is: Listen for me on 3.957 MHz (I so badly want to say MC, but wont) some evening at 9:00 PM and hear me laugh with my belly, not HI HI. (I'll be on AM, but you won't be able to tell if you are on LSB).

Thanks for reading this far, Joe. Rich Patrick, KR7W, FISTS NR 9996.

QSL CARD OF THE MONTH Submitted by Rich K7RW

アマチュア無線再開50周年記念
The 50th anniversary of amateur radio restarting
JA3AA JA1AA JA5AA JA9AA JAØAA
"kii" Kiichi Emma JA9AA
2-5-16 Suzumidai Kanazawa Ishikawa 920-1161 Japan

I especially like this card because these guys look like they are having a pretty good time toasting the 50th anniversary of amateur radio restarting. The card is to confirm QSO with JA9AA, Mr Kii. Rig is JST245 + JRL2000 at 500 watts to a 4 element quad antenna. Mr Kii says, "MANY THX NICE QSO! CUL 73/88s". de Rich KR7W

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio? Here is a place to start… First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

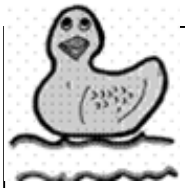
1.Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP

Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Help with topic

Jerry, W7BUN	253-845-7652:	1, 4, 6 9,1 0
Alan, KB7SVU	253-840-4947:	4, 5, 10
Frank, N7UO	253-752-8520 :	2, 3
Angela, KC7EQ	253-584-2228:	2
John, AC7LK	253-984-6709:	3, 4, 8,10, 12
Mick, KK7QS	253-891-6950 :	12

If you are willing to share your time and knowledge with "newbees" and others, let us know and get on the Elmer Board!

What Do you Do with A Rubber Ducky? By Rich N7ANF



The good news: April is here and that means May is on it's way, and that means Mothers Day. Again we are going to honor our Mothers with a Mom's Day breakfast. We will have (of course) ham, hotcakes, eggs, any style, as long as they're scrambled, OJ, Coffee, and Tea. And if someone wants to donate strawberries and/or blueberries this year that would be nice. Last year we had the breakfast on the Sunday a week 'after' the traditional Moms day. At a general meeting last year we took a hand vote and I think we got 100% positive response. So this year that would be the Sunday after the 8th, or the 15th of May.

Now for the uncomfortable revelation: A number of years ago it was "Moms free and we charged a couple bucks each for everyone else". But the last couple of years it was "Everyone Free" donations optional, and the coffee fund will pick up the cost. Well, this year the coffee fund is a tad on the negative side. It comes to about 75% of cost of supplies. Supplies being Coffee, tea, sweetener, creamer, stirrers, plastic ware, plates, cups, donuts, cookies, 'good' hot dogs and buns, and all the paper products .
This year we have got some 'nice' donations of coffee, leftover supplies from the flea-market, and VE classes. People bringing cookies and cakes to the meetings and Saturday open house. Thank you all.

It can't run by itself folks. Some Saturdays without enough cash on hand, I'll just write a check, then when enough cash comes in I use cash. That's 75% cash, 25% checks. I usually pay myself back when I can. And I do have all the pay-in/pay-out paper work. I wasn't keeping very good books through the year. I wasn't very worried, as I just have me to satisfy (A shoe-box operation).
Well our new treasurer wanted an accounting and I discovered I was running a charity. Well we WILL have a Mothers-Day Breakfast.. I might have to put a flashing light on the donation bucket. I didn't want have to say all this, but I'm not preaching to the faithful 75% thru the year. It's the 25% donut and hot-dog eaters, whose Mommy doesn't buy the food at the club house and meetings. But you know, I see most everyone stuff money in. So maybe it's just that we all could put a little more in the can. We'll catch up. I don't want to have to take a draw from the club each month or two. Or we could go to Western-family cookies and hostess boxed donuts (YUK). We'll stop at instant coffee. Ok?

Well I didn't say much about antennas this month, but my spleen sure feels better. So have a nice spring. Upgrade, upgrade, upgrade.....See you next time.
Rich N7ANF.....something about food.
Remember, R.C.T. MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST MAY 15TH .

AARL RCT VE Team Report

by John Clarke AC7WW

We had a great VE Test Session on March 8th at the Radio Club of Tacoma's Clubhouse with the remolded kitchen. VE's outnumbered the candidates more than two to one. With twelve VE's and only five candidates we could watch their every move.

And because we could watch them so closely we had a 100 percent pass rate. Three new technician's. Mary, N7WGO, passed code with one day to spare and advanced to General Class. Randy, KD7TRA, passed his Amateur Extra Exam. Congratulations to all and many thanks to the Volunteer Examiners.

John Clarke AC7WW

Mini-Swap Meet at the Clubhouse

Last Saturday of each month Mini Swap Meet at the Clubhouse ... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m....There will be food (hot dogs, etc.) ...Bring in your items you want to swap or sell or stop by to see what others bring.

Adventure Radio de Rich KR7W

ADVENTURE RADIO – ADD DIRECTIVITY TO YOUR VERTICAL ANTENNA

I get up early. Most mornings I drink my coffee while I listen to the 40 meter CW band (7.000 to 7.030 MHz). Every once in a while I make contact with some rare (rare to me, anyway) DX, the Philippines or South Korea. I know where the DX is because Harry K7LAZ is usually on the air at that time also and I can see his big signal with the band scope on my radio. I look for the big blip, tune it in, and copy "de K7LAZ K".

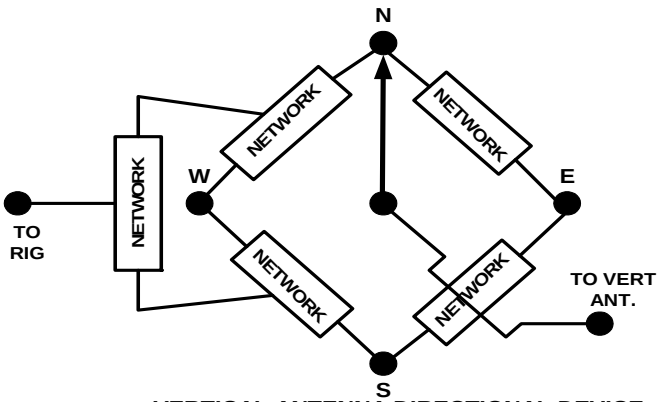
I listen to Harry and copy that he is running 500 watts to a vertical antenna. Harry gets good signal reports, too, like 579 or better. Most of the time Harry is working DX that I can not hear. I know that vertical antennas have the low angle of radiation that hears the far away signals bounced off the ionosphere

At our house we do not have much room for antennas… and I want the DX, so I took down the inverted-V and put the 33 foot vertical back up. I run 100 watts output and do not get heard well. For me to use 500 watts is out of the question… but I can increase my effective radiated power (ERP).

When I was a kid, just starting in amateur radio, one of the "old guys", my Elmer, Verle, gave me some Citizen Band magazines that were published in Australia in 1963. The last time I visited my mother in California I found the magazines in the storage in her garage. Anyway, one of the articles I remember reading was about a vertical antenna phasing (**VAP**) device that gave simple single element vertical antenna directivity. Using this gizmo is like having three or four vertical antennas all phased to create a directive pattern to create gain in the desired direction like an AM broadcast station does. (Ask Nick, K7MO how this works) The article goes on to say that up to 8 dB of gain can be realized in the desired direction.

8 dB ? Let's do the math: At 3 dB gain, my signal would have an ERP of 200 watts…. 6 dB would be 400 watts ERP, and finally 8 dB equals 635 watts ERP. Yah! More than 500 watts. Now I'll be heard, fer sure.

The schematic of this VAP shows five inductor/networks in a stop sign shaped arrangement, some coupling links, tuning capacitors, a 5 position rotary switch, and the IN and OUT SO-239 connectors. The five positions on the switch are N, S, E, W, and bypass. The bypass position is a handy feature to check signal reports with directivity **IN** vs. **OUT**.



VERTICAL ANTENNA DIRECTIONAL DEVICE
NOTE: As shown without "Bypass"

I built the VAP using the tried and true old-timey method of breadboard construction. I wound the network coils using #14 solid copper house wire and 2 inch PVC pipe as the coil (inductor) forms. The coupling links were made from #14 AWG stranded house wire (like the antenna tuners in the museum). Some old thrift store vacuum tube radios provided the four network tuning capacitors.

To test the VAP… I took my QRP equipment down to Owens Beach (*shades of SWCC FYBO QRP Winter Field Day- see Gary WG7X's article in March's Bark*). I set up the16 ft fiberglass crappie pole (with the copper radiator wire) in the sand and used six radials 16 feet long. The antenna was connected to 50 feet of RG8X coax cable (about .6 dB loss). The coax was connected the breadboard chassis' OUTPUT of the Vertical Antenna Phaser.

I tuned my FT-817 (5 watts output) up without the VAP on the HF Pack calling frequency of 14.343.5 MHz USB. Then I connected in the VAP in the bypass position. It's easy to make contact on this frequency because there are lots of HF Pack hams monitoring out in the field or from their home stations hoping to make contact with other HF Packers (see www.hfpack.com).

My SWR was high (2.5 to 1)… but I immediately made contact with a pedestrian mobile ham in Atlanta, GA who was running 20 watts from his backpack radio and fishing pole antenna. I received S-4 to S-5 signal report on my voice peaks with my 5 watts. I switched in the VAP gizmo and selected E on the switch. Now I am being received at S-6 to S-7. Just for funzies… I switch the phaser to the W position. I now am being received at S-2 to S-3. Let's do the math again: The ARRL handbook claims that each S unit is equal to approximately 6 dB. Wow! That's more than 6 dB gain in the E direction and an equal loss in the W direction.

HF Packers like this kind of experimenting and some were waiting to take their turn to make contact with me. I heard a ham in San Diego calling me. He was coming in at about S-2 on my rigs meter when I was switched to the E and W direction. So I switched to the S direction and now I receive him at S-5 to S-6 on his voice peaks. He hears me with the same increase on his S-meter.

Needless to say… I was pretty excited about this gizmo that gave my single element vertical antenna directivity and gain in the desired direction- just like having a three element Yagi and rotator on a tower.

Now all I have to do is figure out how to couple the VAP gizmo with my Icom AH-4 antenna tuner that's connected to my home stations 100 watt rig without causing a high SWR on the feed line between the antenna phaser and the tuner 30 feet away. The internet's *Google* comes up with nothing.

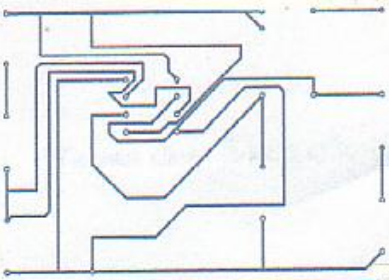
Another thing: Back in 1963…. Radios were vacuum tube- and the transmitter's PA used the versatile PI network that would tune just about any kind of wire for an antenna (no stinking 50 ohms needed here). The original Vertical Antenna Phaser was designed for a radio with PI output. So, I gotta work out the bugs on that issue, too.

A schematic will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Bark. Also, be sure to look on the w7dk.org website, TECHY area, for future developments.

Every Saturday the Clubhouse is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Q1
NPN

PART TWO:



MORSE CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

THIS SCHEMATIC IS TO SCALE. FIRST DRILL THE COMPONENT HOLES, THEN DRAW THE TRACES.

FROM THE HAMSHACK OF:

KA5BBG

F1
1A

R1
10k 40%

I PRESENT A SCHEMATIC OF THE CIRCUIT BOARD FOR THE 555 OSILLATOR. THE TINY CIRCLES IN THE DRAWING. ARE THE DRILL POINTS FOR THE COMPONENTS. YOU DO NOT NEED A SPECIAL CIRCUIT BOARD TO BUILD THIS CIRCUIT.

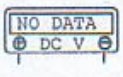
A PIECE OF PLASTIC, WILL WORK JUST FINE. THERE ARE MANY PRE-DRILLED CIRCUIT BOARDS AVAILABLE, SHOULD YOU CHOSE TO PURCHASE ONE.

THIS DRAWING HAS THE TRACE PATHS FOR THE CIRCUIT TO SCALE. THESE TRACE PATHS ALLOW THE CURRENT TO FLOW TO THE DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS.

THERE IS A NEW WAY TO PLACE TRACES ON A CIRCUIT BOARD. A SILVER PEN IS AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE THIS TASK. USING THIS PEN YOU DRAW THE TRACES RIGHT ON THE CIRCUIT BOARD. THE INK IN THIS PEN IS SILVER. AS YOU DRAW THE TRACES THE PEN COMPLETES THE TRACE ON THE BOARD.

YOU CAN STILL MANUFACTURE THE CIRCUIT BOARD. USING THE CHEMICAL PROCESS, OR PHOTO TYPES. THIS PEN WILL BRING YOU A NEW FOUND JOY.

DRILL THE HOLE. USING A 1/32" DRILLL BIT. I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THE YOU UTILIZE A IC SOCKET FOR THE 555 CHIP. ENJOY HOME BREWING.



Pacific Northwest Hamfests

From the website of Lynne Burlingame N7CFO

April 2005. Inland Northwest Hamfest and Computer Show. St. Anns Parish Hall, 2120 E. 1st, Spokane, WA, in the Rectory Building behind the church. Sponsored by Lilac City ARC and Lilac City Chapter 10-10 International. Setup 7am to 9am. Doors open 9am. to 5pm. ARRL VE Testing April 2nd. at 7pm. contact N7WRQ@AOL.COM or call (509)448-5821. Talk in frequency 146.520 simplex. Admission $3.00. Six foot tables $10.00. Send checks to Lilac City ARC, C/O KJ7BBS, 1405 Crestline, Spokane, WA 99203.

April 2005. Yakima Hamfest, Yakima, Washington. Note new location: Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. There will be breakfast and lunch on site on Saturday. No stairs to climb this year! http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html Flyer in PDF. (87KB)

April 2005. Eastern Idaho UHF Society Hamfair and Computer Swapmeet. Idaho Falls, Idaho. RV camping available in the area. VE testing. http://myweb.cableone.net/wa4vrv/hamfest.htm

April 2005. Summerland Flea Market. Sponsored by the South Okanagan Radio Amateur Club. Summerland Senior Citizen's Drop-In Center, 9710 Brown St., Summerland, BC. Vendor set-up at 8:00am; General Public in at 10:00 AM. Admission: $2 per person. Table rental: $15 per table. Talk in Frequency: 145.35. Info on Table rentals: Gerry Ryan, VA7GER, 250-494-4010, email VA7GER@rac.ca

April 2005. Snake River ARC Hamfest. Caldwell, Idaho. Contact Ralston Scott, W5RWS, 711 2nd Street, Nampa, ID 83851, (208)466-3155 for details.

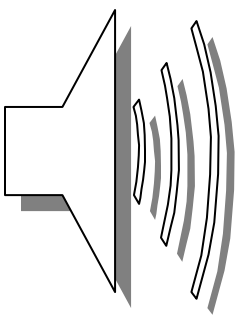
May 2005. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood, WA. This is another nice local group, and a lot of VE7's make the trek down, so this is a good chance to see your Canadian friends. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7005.

June 17-19, 2005. Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon.

July 15-17, 2005. Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest.

June 16-18, 2006. Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon.

Disclaimer: I do my best to keep up with scheduling changes on these events, but there is always the chance that one will be canceled or re-scheduled and I will not find out about it. I suggest that you verify all dates and locations with the sponsor.



Check in to the Tuesday evening Net at 7:30p.m. on 147.28 (the W7DK repeater) for the latest news and announcements from the club!

10 meter Net Sunday evening 8 p.m. On 28.375

NEW!

CW net meets on Sunday evening 7 p.m. on 28.150

Letters to the Editor

Hi,
The 2004 International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend took place over the weekend 21/22 August 2004 when over 380 lighthouse stations were established in 52 countries. A full list of stations with their details can be found at http://illw.net/2004_list.htm

This years event will run from 0001 UTC 20 August until 2359 UTC 21 August 2005.

Guidelines for the International Light-house/Lightship Weekend 2005 can be found at http://illw.net/index.html

So come and join the fun and let us have over 400 stations at lighthouses or lightships.

73 Mike GM4SUC
gm4suc@compuserve.com

Welcome to All New Members!

We hope you enjoy your affiliation with the Radio Club of Tacoma and will invite your friends to join us.

Please stop by the Clubhouse on Saturday mornings and come to the club meetings and events so we can all get to know you better.

Again, welcome - we're glad you're here!

PINOCHLE & POTLUCK

See you at the clubhouse Saturday , April 2nd 6:30P.M.

For more info call: 253-759-4898

Jack, WA7ENB & Marilyn Moore

The Pinochle and Pot Luck group of hams started a long time ago. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at the clubhouse (unless otherwise noted).

Ethel Devish W7WLX was the leader for a long time until her health forced her to give it up. Her husband, Roy Devish W7AZI, played until he passed away.

For the last couple of years Lee Favors (a fellow who is blind) played with us. He has moved and cannot play this year. His uncle is Del Kohler W7JG. Lee is working toward his ham license.

Jack Moore WA7ENB and Marilyn have taken over for Ethel.

Many others have played in the past. The following is the group as it now exists:

Jack Moore WA7ENB and Marilyn

Harvey Bishop W7RMI and Beulah

Dobbsie Brandeberry (friend of the Bishops)

Mae Barge (friend of the Bishops)

Gene Stoll W7IIU and Marion

Roy Myers WA7UZL and Dot

Art Ives AA7EO and Marjorie

Vivian Huntley (wife of Scotty Huntley K7CYZ who passed away)

Les Darling W7QCI and Phyllis

Steve Blacksten KD7UBE and Ingrid

Jack Moore WA7ENB & Marilyn Moore

Repeater Critters

Number 5 in the Series:

Hotairium Ignoramium

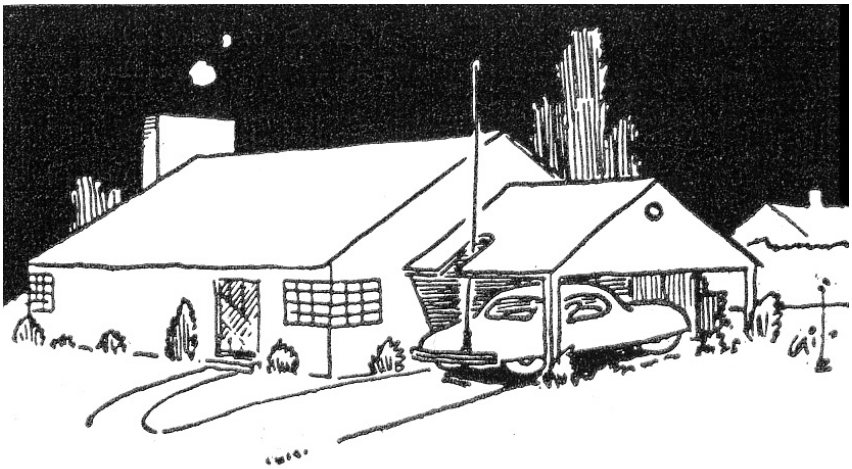
Hotairium Ignoramium is the most irritating of repeater critters, droning on and on, and most of the time amply demonstrating his total lack of understanding of even the most simple aspects of the Amateur Radio service.

Hotairium never heard or understood this simple homily: Better to keep your mouth closed and be thought a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

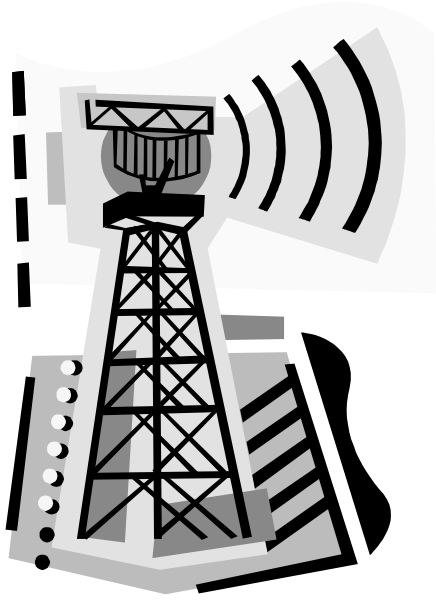
Hotairium will continue to inhabit the repeaters, chattering away like a happy monkey, with no thought for the other repeater critters around him.

Have pity on the sorry Hotairium, for he has no brain to speak of, only a hollow shell.

Be on the lookout for this species of repeater critter! Remember to fill out your spotters' log!



W7EC's QTH



RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA VE TESTING DATES FOR 2005

2005 License Exam Testing Dates
(Second Tuesday Each Month)

Location: 1249 S Washington St
Tacoma, WA 98405

Liaison/Contact: John Clarke, AC7WW
3616 South D St
Tacoma, WA 98418-6812
253-475-5854
clarken@ix.netcom.com

Walk Ins are Welcome. Pre-Registration Not Required

Tuesday January 11, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday February 8, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday March 8, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday April 12, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday May 10, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday June 14, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday July 12, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday August 9, 2005 7:00 PM

Saturday August 13, 2005 10:00 AM RCT Flea Market located at Bethel Junior High School In Spanaway, WA

Tuesday September 13, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday October 11, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday November 8, 2005 7:00 PM

Tuesday December 13, 2005 7:00 PM